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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Krasnoyarsk Kray)	REPORT	
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Organization of Soviet Gold Mining

50X1-HUM

1. A special department, Glavzoloto, in the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy directed all activities concerning gold mining in the USSR.¹ Glavzoloto was administratively composed of Kray committees, kraykomy, which were subdivided into obkomy, raykomy, and gorkomy.

The Krasnoyarsk Gold Mine

2. The Krasnoyarsk gold mine was officially designated Yenisey Gold Mining Trust, N.Y.D., Northern Yenisey Rayon, Krasnoyarsk Kray, USSR.² The mine was directly subordinate to the kraykom, which drew up its annual production plans and maintained daily contact with it. The mine administration was composed of the following departments:

- a. A geological department, with a staff of 150 experts, headed by a senior geological official.
- b. A construction department that drew charts in accordance with the geologists' instructions.
- c. An engineering department that constructed pits.
- d. A laboratory for the inspection of mined raw materials. It was divided into the following sections: Blasting, crushing, pulverizing, flush cleaning, barrelling, and checking.

Production

3. Prior to 1947, production methods at the mine were very primitive, and most of the work was done manually. After 1947, the production process was mechanized. Monthly output totaled 100 kg of pure gold, though actual production exceeded this figure. The district management allegedly stockpiled gold in order to assure premiums during periods of decreased production.

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50X1-HUM

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S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

-2-

4. The mine was directed by Aleksey Nikolayevich Krilov, while Yelishayev. (fmu) was the chief engineer, and Mikiforov (fmu), the chief geologist. The last had worked in the mine for 34 years.

5. Gold was stored in a special safe, under heavy guard, and was subsequently transported to Krasnoyarsk (N56-02, E92-48), from whence it was shipped to Moscow on the first of each month.

Workers, Wages, and Rations

6. About 6,500 persons labored at the mine, some 900 of whom were employed in supervisory positions and worked under contract. The remainder were either under forced labor sentences or were released convicts who continued working after serving their sentences.

7. Free workers were under a three-year contract with the mine management and received wages up to 10,000 rubles a month. A bonus salary was added after the first of each year. They also received two months' paid leave. Wages increased after three and nine years of work by ten and 30 percent, respectively. Workers lived with their families in a nearby town. Life was dull, although there were a school, a theater, and many clubs.

8. Since 1954, miners were required to strip, bathe, and pass X-ray inspections after work. This process normally took an hour.

9. The convicts lived in an enclosed camp, about two kilometers from the mine, which was guarded by a full MVD division (sic) of about 1,500 men. These guards were called for 32 months and were rotated every two months to prevent formation of friendships with prisoners. There were four six-hour work shifts. The prisoners reported for work at morning parade, fell in by barracks, and formed brigades in columns of five. These formations marched to the mine, each man linking arms with his neighbors. The escorts were authorized to fire upon anyone who broke ranks.

10. The monthly wage averaged 1,000 rubles, from which six-percent bachelor's tax, eight-percent cultural contribution, and one-percent trade union dues were deducted. In the event of sickness, workers with up to three years' service were entitled to 50 percent of their wages, those with six years' service to 60 percent, and those above 12 years, 90 percent.

11. A central institution in Moscow established a uniform diet for prisoners. Five hundred rubles a month were deducted for daily rations, which consisted of: One kilogram of bread; 100 grams wheat flour; 6.5 grams sausage; 72 grams butter; four grams sugar; four grams coffee; 200 grams rice or cereals; and 545 grams vegetables. Prisoners suffered from malnutrition, with as many as 40 perishing at one time. In 1949, a Moscow delegation arrived to investigate these large-scale deaths and discovered that the prison command had stolen food. As a consequence, many camp officials were arrested, and some were executed. Such conditions had led to a number of riots and some attempts at escape. After the arrest of Beriya, however, conditions improved, and, in 1954, premiums were introduced for those overfulfilling the work norms.

Transportation

12. Water transportation to the area was possible only for six weeks, from June until mid-July; at other times, air transportation was required. Snow usually lasted until May, and temperatures in September fell to -60°C.

Hospital

13. A 300-bed hospital was in close proximity to the camp. It was always filled to capacity, mostly with cases of silicosis, but also with patients suffering from rheumatism, pneumonia, and hernia. About half of the medical staff were prisoners or deportees. Hygienic, therapeutic, and dietary conditions at the hospital were not satisfactory. Patients had to pay six rubles a day for hospitalization. X-ray examinations, conducted twice a year, revealed a three-percent incidence of silicosis among prisoners.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

-3-

50X1-HUM

Other Mines in the Area

14. There were four smaller old mines in the Krasnoyarsk region, each employed 800 to 2,000 workers. The depth of these pits reportedly exceeded that of the larger mine, which was 216 meters deep.

Comments:

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1. Glavzoloto (glavnoye upravleniye zoloto-promyshlennosti) is the Chief Directorate of Gold Production under the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy.
2. [redacted] one of the gold mining sites in the Yenisey Ridge, north of the Yenisey-Angara confluence. Other mine sites in the area are Southern Yenisey (N 58-38, E 94-48), Ayakhta (N 59-15, E 94-15), and Pit-Gorodok (N 59-17, E 93-49).

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

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